

House Bill 798 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE) (AM)

By: Representatives Chandler of the 105th, Teasley of the 37th, Stovall of the 74th, Dudgeon of the 25th, Barr of the 103rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, so as to provide for eligibility for Zell
3 Miller Scholarships for home study students and students graduating from ineligible high
4 schools who receive certain scores on standardized college admission tests; to revise
5 eligibility requirements for HOPE scholarships for entering freshmen students who are home
6 study students or students who graduated from ineligible high schools regarding scores on
7 standardized college admission tests; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
8 laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 7 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to HOPE scholarships and grants, is amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to
13 definitions, by revising paragraph (27) as follows:

14 "(27) 'Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar' means a student who has met the applicable
15 eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship in accordance with Code Section
16 20-3-519.2 and:

17 (A) As an incoming freshman:

18 (i) Having graduated from an eligible high school with a grade point average of at
19 least 3.7 calculated in accordance with Code Section 20-2-157 and having received
20 a score of ~~at least 1,200~~ in the eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT, on the
21 combined critical reading score and math score portions on a single administration of
22 the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single
23 administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016 ~~or an ACT~~
24 ~~composite scale score of at least 26;~~

25 (ii) Having graduated from an eligible high school as a valedictorian or salutatorian;
26 ~~or~~

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(iii) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, having received a score in the ninety-third percentile or higher on the ACT, on the combined critical reading and math portions on a single administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016; or
 (iii)(iv) Having completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 or having graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, having received a score of at least 1,200 in the eightieth percentile or higher on the ACT, on the combined critical reading score and math score portions on a single administration of the SAT administered prior to March 1, 2016, or on the total score on a single administration of the SAT administered on or after March 1, 2016 or an ACT composite scale score of at least 26, and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; and

(B) As a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student who met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, having a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 at the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a student who entered an eligible postsecondary institution as a freshman between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2011, and met the requirements of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may become a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar as a sophomore, junior, senior, or first professional student.

A student who loses eligibility to be a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar for any reason may regain eligibility one time if the student requalifies at one of the checkpoints set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 20-3-519.2."

SECTION 2.

Said part is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

"(a) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, an entering freshman student seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition to meeting the residency requirements set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1:

(1) Meet achievement standards by:

(A) Having graduated from an eligible high school while meeting the curriculum requirements of his or her program of study in 1993 or thereafter and meeting the requirements set out in the applicable subsection and paragraph of Code Section 20-2-157;

(B) In the case of a student who is otherwise qualified but:

(i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690, having received the general educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after June 30, 1993, provided that such student shall only be eligible for a HOPE scholarship pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section;

(ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school, earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; or

(iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at an eligible postsecondary institution at the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours, provided that such student shall be eligible to receive a retroactive HOPE scholarship for such student's freshman year to be paid at the end of the freshman year; or

(C) In the case of an otherwise qualified student who:

(i) Did not graduate from high school or complete a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 but received the general educational development (GED) diploma awarded by the Department of Technical and Adult Education, now known as the Technical College System of Georgia, after June 30, 1993;

(ii) Completed a home study program meeting the requirements of subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-690 in lieu of graduating from an eligible high school; or

(iii) Graduated from a high school which is not an eligible high school, earning a score in the ~~eightieth~~ seventy-fifth percentile or higher nationally on a standardized college admission test, such as the SAT or ACT; and

99 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
100 undergraduate student in a matriculated status."

101 **SECTION 3.**

102 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.